



## Meeting Minutes

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
Thursday, May 4, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
SFWMD, Building B-1, Auditorium  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL**

### **Attending**

#### Governing Board Members

Michael Collins                      Bubba Wade

#### WRAC Member

Kelvin Baker	Rob Barton	Michael Bauer
Bevin Beaudet	Judy Sanchez	Scott Benyon
Douglas Bournique	Christina Acorn-Casado	Joan Davis
Terry Manning	Dennis Duke	Beverly Grady
Patrick Hayes	James Humble	Kristin Jacobs
Tom Jones	Thomas Kenny	Barbara Miedema
Rock Salt	Ray Scott	David Burr

#### WRAC Alternates

Tom Bausch	Perry White	Jamie Furgang
Doug Yoder	Gene Duncan	Ken Todd

*Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission of the South Florida Water Management District determines that good cause exists to make the following changes.*

1. Welcome and Introductions - Mike Collins, Chair  
We are doing a presentation on the status of the Lake Okeechobee Hoover Dike, item 9 was postponed until the June WRAC meeting.  
David Burr from Lee County was introduced as a new WRAC Member.
  
2. Member Issues – Mike Collins  
Michael Bauer asked about the status of the “Caloosahatchee/St. Lucie Estuary Bill”.  
Mike Collins - It was amended to the general appropriations then it goes to the Governor.  
  
There were questions about the Herbert Hoover Dike Report.  
Michael Collins – George Horne will be here to discuss the whole report.  
Bevin Beaudet asked about the status of the appropriations for SB44 funding in the legislature.  
Mike Collins - It is back on track, there were a couple of changes.
  
3. Lake Okeechobee Committee Report – Bubba Wade, Chair, WRAC/Lake Okeechobee Committee  
Bubba Wade – We met in Labelle on April 26, started with member issues and a lengthy discussion about the FDAC’s new rule. The rule was an extension from the priority basins to

all the remaining basins. We asked Ray Scott to bring someone to the next meeting to clear up the confusion. There was a water conditions update and Lake Ecosystems discussion on dredging efforts. We are looking at Eagle Bay as a possible pilot site. The members thank the District for moving forward with a resolution to continue with lower level pulse discharges on a continuous basis. There was much discussion on ASR and deep well injection, concluding that by 2010 we will be in a position to recommend where wells will go and what kind of wells. We concluded to try deep well injection, and to pursue when we can get the test wells. We agreed to dedicate the first part of the next meeting to go over the Committee's recommendations regarding solutions for the lake.

Mike Collins – It is important to note that the committee will review all options and will make decisions when there is a consensus.

Ray Scott questioned when the Agricultural BMP briefing will be scheduled.

Bubba Wade - It will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The discussion should include the changes: what it was and what are the enhancements or changes. At a later meeting, we will have Susan Gray address the questions of phosphorous, fertilizing and other components.

Mike Collins – At the end of the last hurricane season, we received a report from the CORPS on the Herbert Hoover Dike. The Governing Board, commissioned a study to integrate the new information with the existing CORPS report of 1999. That report we received about a week ago and we are currently discussing with the CORPS on what to do next.

Report on the Herbert Hoover Dike – George Horne introduced Les Bromwell

Mike Collins – Obviously, there is reason for concern and we need to take action. The Governor has asked Craig Fugate to create an evacuation plan for the areas of concern. If we look at New Orleans, part of the problem was the levee, but mostly it was that they did not have an evacuation plan. We are going to develop an evacuation plan and work with the CORPS to expedite solutions to the problems.

Questions and Answers:

There were questions and concerns about the safety of the dike, news sensationalism, developing an evacuation plan for the municipalities at risk, seeking funding from Congress for repairs to the dike.

Answers: We want to work with local elected officials on evacuation plans and play a leadership role in setting criteria. This will be similar to a coastal evacuation. We will work with the State to develop an action plan and will hold workshops. Dennis Duke, CORPS, said that the levee is their responsibility and that they are working diligently on submitting a budget for the repairs. We are moving forward and there is a letter to the Governor addressing these concerns. This is not a Katrina scenario, the dike is above sea level and does not have a constant water flow from the Gulf of Mexico. We are actively working on the project and are happy to cooperate with local governments. Ms. Carol Wehle stated that we will make Mr. Bromwell available to any county that might need him for a meeting.

Mike Collins – There are policy and technical questions regarding forward pumps that need to be resolved. I have asked that our staff set up a series Water Supply Policy and Supply Side Management Workshops to address these questions.

4. Water Supply Plans Update – John Mulliken, SFWMD

Questions and Answers:

These are some of the questions: Are you commenting on the DRIs and asking how are they planning to meet their water supply? Are they examples of projects that have been denied? The rulemaking for protection of regional water; is it for environmental purpose or water supply? How does the District encourage conservation? Is more water coming from

the Everglades going to be an answer? Where are the numbers coming from? Are we capturing storm water runoff?

Answers: All governments have been asked to come up with a 20 year plan on how to meet future growth. DRIs come from DCA and they go back with comments on the future water supply plans. Some local government projects have been denied based on the review of alternative water supply plans. The rule was created for environmental purposes, "to protect the source." Conservation is a major part of the plan, and all utilities are asked to submit a conservation plan. We have agreed with DEP to use the median projections coming out of the BEBR, unless different numbers are approved by the Department of Community Affairs. The majority of projects will required to offset AWS. The Governing Board has given us a strong direction that all new water should come from AWS and not regional resources. About 200mpg a day will come from storm water runoff.

Mike Collins – We are working with DEP to come up with what are the requirements to replenish water. Water that goes to tide should be clean enough to recharge.

5. Acceler8 Update:

- Site 1 Impoundment Basis of Design Report – Jeff Kivett, Acceler8
- Public Comment

John Koch - We like to see this area under water; we don't want any road to be developed. It seems that at every presentation, this reservoir gets smaller and I find this disconcerting. Let's make this reservoir as big as possible as fast as possible.

Newton Cook – I support John on his comments. This site will be perfect for duck hunting. It is important to get the boat ramps early in the design, and make sure the levee sides are people friendly and creature friendly. We would like to see this reservoir managed as a WCA.

Question and Answers:

Q: What will happen if we don't do the whole project?

A: They are legitimate concerns but this land was bought with USDOl money and any other use than for restoration will have to get approval from USDOl.

Lunch: 11:45 – 12:45 p.m.

6. Long Term Plan to Improve Water Quality, "Non-Everglades Construction Program Basins" Update – Carlos Adoriso, SFWMD

Questions and Answers

Q: Are they extending some of these project to other basins? How are they selected? Are these program created to improve water quality? Are they voluntary programs?

A: There is no funding for C111, primarily because C111 water is of good quality. These projects are all done on a voluntary basis.

SFWMD FY 2006 Strategic Plan Update – David Gilpin-Hudson, SFWMD

Questions and Answers:

Q: Is the estuary priority just to do with LOER?

David Gilpin-Hudson: LOER was the initiative that led to these estuaries being prioritized and the priority is in line with the LOER initiative.

Follow-up Q: Shouldn't storage issues also be considered part of this priority?

David Gilpin-Hudson: This issue will be examined to see where it's best addressed.

Q: Shouldn't the southern end water bodies of Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay also be established as Strategic Priorities?

David Gilpin-Hudson: The Governing Board establishes the priorities each year, and your comment will be presented to the board next week for their consideration.

9. WRAC Priority Plan Update – Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator (Postponed)

Other Issues

Rock Salt – We agree with the tribe we won't be able to clean out S12B culberts because of permitting issues between with the CORPS and the District are delaying the clean up. Can we get this done? What permit is hanging us up?

Gene Duncan: This needs to be done, CORPS has obligation to keep it clean. .

Mike Collins: The Park is demanding additional monitoring. We were ready to go six months ago routine cleaning and try to get this done, but someone else decided we needed permits.

Rick Smith: The WRAC monthly meeting in June will be held in Miami. We are planning a trip to Biscayne Bay. WRAC/Lake Okeechobee Committee will be held in Clewiston May 31, and we are planning field trip to Lake Okeechobee May 30.

Adjourn: 2:45 p.m.